

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A method of enciphering information constituted by a finite sequence $\{S_1, S_2, \dots, S_N\}$ of N symbols $\{S_1, S_2, \dots, S_N\}$ selected from an alphabet A , wherein there are defined both a secret convention (K) of p key symbols K_1, \dots, K_p selected from a second alphabet B , and a multivariate function M having $m+1$ variables ($m \leq N$): $M(X_{i_1}, \dots, X_{i_m}, Y)$ operating $A^m \times B$ in A , $\{i_1, \dots, i_m\}$ being m distinct indices in the range $[1, N]$ and the function M being ~~objective~~ bijective relative to at least one (X_{i_1}) of the m variables of A , said enciphering method comprising:

initially placing the N symbols (S_1, S_2, \dots, S_N) constituting the information to be enciphered in the N positions of a shift register, and then

performing a succession of X turns of the shift register implementing a succession of X permutations on the sequences $\{S_1, S_2, \dots, S_N\}$ such that where $\{S_1, S_2, \dots, S_N\}$ is the sequence prior to the j^{th} permutation, the sequence after the j^{th} permutation is $\{S_2, S_3, \dots, S_N, Z_j\}$, where Z_j is equal to $M(S_{i_1}, \dots, S_{i_m}, K_j)$, the enciphered information being constituted by the sequence $\{S'_1, S'_2, \dots, S'_N\}$ contained in the shift register at the end of the X^{th} permutation resulting from the X^{th} turn of the shift register,

wherein the number X of permutations is greater than several times the length N of the sequences $\{S_1, S_2, \dots, S_N\}$,

wherein the number m is equal to 3, the function M being defined by $M(X_1, X_2, X_N, Y)$, and

wherein the function $M(X_1, X_2, X_N, Y)$ is calculated using the following steps:

$$\underline{U=t1(X_1, X_N)}$$

$$\underline{V=t2(U, Y)}$$

$$\underline{Z=t1(V, X_2)}$$

t1 and t2 being the functions associated with two Latin squares T1 and T2 of size equal to the number N.

Claims 2-7. (Canceled).

8. (Currently amended) A method of deciphering information enciphered using the enciphering method of claim [[7]] 1, wherein the symbols $(S'_1, S'_2, \dots, S'_N)$ of the sequence $\{S'_1, S'_2, \dots, S'_N\}$ constituting the enciphered information are reverse symbol by symbol $(S'_N, S'_{N-1}, \dots, S'_1)$, $M(S_1, S_2, S_N, K_j)=Z_j$ is calculated using a key symbol K_j beginning with the last key symbol to be used during enciphering, and so on in decreasing order $\dots Z_j, Z_{j-1}, \dots$, with $M(X_1, X_2, X_N, Y)=Z$ being calculated using the following steps:

$$V=t1^{\square}(X_1, X_N)$$

$$U=t2^{\square}(V, Y)$$

$$Z=t1^{\square}(U, X_2)$$

the sequence obtained at the end of the X^{th} permutation reconstituting the information in the clear $\{S_1, S_2, \dots, S_N\}$.